

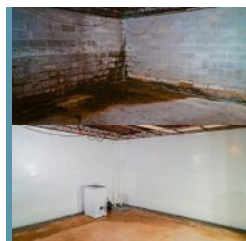
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# The Gleaner

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026 | THE GLEANER



PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Program gives struggling artists \$1,000 a month



A few commissions, contracts, sales or cancellations can dramatically change what artists earn in a given year.

GETTY IMAGES

### The result: freedom and time to focus on their art

**Joanna Woronkovicz**

Indiana University  
and **Doug Noonan**  
Indiana University Indianapolis  
THE CONVERSATION

Though artificial intelligence is making it easier than ever to produce images, music and text, the technology is also making it harder for the people who have traditionally produced this work to earn a living.

A photographer who once was commissioned to make art for an advertising campaign is now competing with graphics produced by the AI image generator Midjourney. A novelist who used to make money on the side as a technical writer is seeing that work be replaced by a series of prompts in ChatGPT.

The extent to which AI will upend creative work remains unsettled. But that uncertainty has made guaranteeing income for creatives a more viable policy idea.

In fact, creatives in New York recent-

**The program selected artists through a weighted lottery. It adopted an expansive definition of “artist.” Anyone engaged in artistic, cultural or community-centered creative practices – such as musicians, storytellers or muralists – was eligible to apply.**

ly participated in the largest basic income program for artists in U.S. history, the Guaranteed Income for Artists initiative.

Spearheaded by Creatives Rebuild New York and primarily funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the program gave 2,400 artists across New York state \$1,000 a month beginning in June 2022. There were no work require-

ments and no restrictions on how the money could be spent. The program sought to improve the financial stability of artists and encourage the public to see them as workers who deserve a stable income and social support.

As researchers who study artists, cultural work and public policy, we evaluated this program to see whether it achieved its stated goals. Our main finding was simple: Artists did not stop working. Instead, they changed the kind of work they did.

#### Cash buys time

Artists often make choices that look strange in standard economic models, which typically assume workers will prioritize higher wages while balancing work against leisure time.

Artists, on the other hand, may stay in poorly paid, unstable arts work, even when other work pays more. Economists have long described this as a “work-preference” model. Put plainly, they argue that artists get value from the work itself, not just from

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#### MISSED PAYCHECKS

## Ex-OCU employees now at 2 months without pay

**Jon Webb**

Evansville Courier & Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

After spending the latter half of June promising money for missing paychecks was imminent – and even assigning specific dates for its arrival – Oakland City University still hasn’t compensated laid-off employees who have now gone two months without pay.

In a series of emails obtained by the Courier & Press, President Ron Dempsey previously claimed two major sources of funding would arrive within days.

**A vast majority of OCU employees fell victim to a mass layoff the school implemented May 31 amid a litany of financial woes.**

The first, which the school had been teasing since early May, was supposed to come courtesy of an unnamed donor. After a delay due to the Juneteenth banking holiday, that money – which Dempsey previously pegged as at least \$1 million – would hit OCU coffers by June 22, he said. Meanwhile, another \$4 million, this time from an unnamed investor group making a down payment on a carbon capture patent the school owns, would come two days later on June 24.

Dempsey subsequently pushed those back to June 23 and June 25, respectively. But the money never materialized. And as of Monday, the school hadn’t offered any new deadlines.

“It’s obvious the university is ignoring its employees,” a former OCU staffer, who asked to remain anonymous, told the Courier & Press on Monday. “We are deeply disappointed in the OCU administration over the lack of pay and communication.”

A vast majority of OCU employees fell victim to a mass layoff the school implemented May 31 amid a litany of financial woes. However, according to former faculty and staff, the university owes them paychecks through at least June 18.

On Monday, the former staffer called for the Indiana attorney general’s office to investigate. The Courier & Press reached out to both the AG’s office and Dempsey for comment.

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## Coroner IDs man shot and killed after alleged pepper-spray incident

**Jon Webb**

Evansville Courier & Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

EVANSVILLE – One person is dead after police say he pepper-sprayed a man who responded by shooting and killing him.

The Vanderburgh County Coroner’s of-

fice identified the man Wednesday morning as 48-year-old Anthony Burris Sr.

Whether there will be an arrest in the case, EPD spokesman Sgt. Anthony Aussieker told the Courier & Press Wednesday morning, is “still to be determined.” And one of the 911 callers claimed to dispatchers that the shooting was an act of self-defense.

According to an EPD news release, investigators were dispatched to the 1300 block of Edgar Street a little after 4 p.m. Tuesday. A 911 caller had reportedly told dispatchers her boyfriend had been pepper-sprayed.

When police arrived, they learned someone on scene had been “stabbed or shot,” Aussieker wrote in the release.

“Officers ... located an adult male suffering from a gunshot wound to the upper torso,” the release states. “The male was transported to a local hospital where he did not survive his injuries.”

The alleged shooter, who police haven’t identified, was reportedly still on scene.

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